

TAKING A BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

尝一口纽约这个“大苹果”

Soo K Chan, founding principal and design director at SCDA
Soo K Chan——SCDA 建筑设计事务所的创始人和设计总监

His first foray into New York City has propelled him to the ranks of design masters such as Norman Foster and Robert A.M. Stern as one of the city's 20 biggest power players in real estate, as named by the New York Post this June. But Soo K Chan, who established his private architectural practice SCDA in 1995 and has left his mark in over 30 cities, expresses nothing but a modest appreciation for the recognition. The Yale-educated architect used fervour for excellent design even as a youth; whether he was creating a structure using building blocks or model kits, he never stopped at anything short of perfect. He credits that same commitment to details to SCDA's success today. His Big Apple debut is Soori High Line, a posh 31-unit residential building in West Chelsea. The property is being developed by Siras Oriel Development, a joint venture between New York-based Siras Development and Soo's Singapore-based Oriel Development. Following it are two other residential properties within the city: 515 Highline is already making waves with the release of renderings of its standout architecture; the other is a 38-storey residential tower at 118 East 59th Street.

Soo K Chan 先生进军纽约后很快与诺曼·福斯特（Norman Foster）和罗伯特·斯特恩（Robert A.M. Stern）这样的设计大师齐名，今年 6 月的《纽约邮报》还称其为纽约房地产市场最重要的 20 位重量级玩家之一。但是，Chan 先生对此只是谦恭地表示了感谢。他在 1995 年建立自己的建筑设计事务所 SCDA，至今已在三十多个城市留下印记。这位耶鲁毕业生从年轻时便全情投入到杰出的设计创造中，不管是建造建筑结构还是组建模型玩具，在达到完美之前，他从未止步。他将 SCDA 今天取得的成就归功于这种投入精神。而令他在“大苹果城”（即纽约市）崭露头角的项目，是位于西切尔西区、拥有 31 间公寓的豪华住宅楼 Soori High Line。它由 Siras Oriel 开发公司投资，该公司由纽约 Siras 开发集团和 Chan 先生在新加坡的 Oriel 开发公司合资组成。紧跟其后的是另外两个位于纽约的住宅项目：“515 Highline”在发布效果图后，已经开始掀起波澜；另一座是地处 59 街 118 号的 38 层住宅楼。

//////////////////////////////////// **Is it important for SCDA to be an international brand?**

We are headquartered in Singapore and this will always be our home base from which to share the great talent and design sensibility of Singapore to the world. But it's important to be visible on an international level, and building in a major metropolis like New York City helps. You'll be in a position to benchmark yourself against the best and the brightest of each city or country. Singapore is a small market and I decided very early on that we would look outwards, regionally and internationally. That approach has served us well and has helped us ride out the economic cycles.

对于 SCDA 来说，成为国际品牌重要吗？

新加坡是我们总部的所在地，也将会是我们永远的家。我们以这里为根基，向全世界分享新加坡的人才，展示新加坡的设计美学。然而，在国际舞台上获得认可也同样十分重要，在纽约这样的大都市承接项目裨益良多。因为你的标杆将会是每个城市或国家中最优秀、最耀眼的设计们。新加坡这个市场很小，所以我在早期就决定，事务所要有地区性和全球性的视野。这个策略一直以来运作良好，帮助我们平稳渡过经济周期。

What is success to you?

Success comes when you believe that you have made a difference by being true to whom you are and being a mentor to those starting out in the industry.

您认为什么是成功？

当你能够做真实的自己，做行业新手的良师从而改变世界时，那就是成功。

Have you ever thought, ‘Wow, I’ve made it’?

Never. There’s always something else ahead to focus on—a new vision to bring to life, a new territory to explore. I feel the need to constantly engage new environments, cultures and people, because I like to remain challenged and inspired to elevate design to a new level. That is what drives me. Passionate and committed individualist motivate me as well; successful individuals inspire me. Besides, an architect is only as good as his last work. So you really are trying to measure up to your own expectations.

您有没有想过：“哇，我真的做到了”？

从来没有。前方总是有更多的挑战——有新的愿景要去实现，新的区域要去开拓。我希望不断尝试新的环境、文化和人，因为我喜欢时刻被挑战、被激发，不断提升设计，这正是我前进的动力。热情和坚定的个人主义精神也激励着我；成功的个人给我以启发。再者，一名建筑师的水准永远取决于他最后一个作品。所以，你其实是在努力达到自己设定的期望。

What was the toughest lesson so far?

I learnt that if there’s something I really want to do, there will come a point where I will have to stop waiting for that magical opportunity to present itself and just say, “I’ll have to make this happen by doing it myself.”

迄今为止，最大的教训是什么？

我认识到，如果自己非常想做某件事情，就不能一直坐等某个神奇机会的到来，而是告诉自己，“我需要主动出击，自己将它完成”。

Any moment you look back on and have a good chuckle over?

As a student at the Yale School of Architecture, I had designed a chair that in retrospect was perhaps not the best chair. But I spent my summer in New York City calling up anyone and everyone to see if they would like to review my chair design. Everyone was very nice to me, but that’s what I call youthful exuberance.

回顾过去，有没有哪个时刻让您会心一笑？

在耶鲁建筑学院学习的时候，我设计了一把椅子。现在回想起来，它可能并不是那么好的椅子。但是我在纽约待了一个暑假，给每个人打电话，希望他们可以看看我的设计，大家也都对我很友善。但是我现在觉得，那完全就是年轻气盛吧。

Is there a ‘Singapore spirit’ driving SCDA’s success?

I think it is both the Singapore spirit and personal drive. You need to have it in you and you also need the right environment to bring out the best in yourself. And Singapore is that environment.

在 SCDA 的成功背后，是否有一种“新加坡精神”在驱动？

我觉得既有新加坡精神，也有个人志向。你需要有这样的志向，也同时需要有合适的环境将它发挥到极致。新加坡就提供了这样一个环境。

What else do you hope to do for Singapore?

I’d like to continue to be involved in the design fraternity and to bring to light internationally the level of architectural design talent and the enormous pool of architectural design expertise we have here.

你还想在新加坡做出什么成绩？

我希望继续我的设计活动，将新加坡的建筑设计人才和雄厚的建筑设计专业能力带到国际舞台上。

Soo shares his portfolio at good design at
SingaporeTatler.com/aug15

Soo 在 SingaporeTatler.com/aug15 上的最佳设计板块分享了他的作品

1995 Soo K Chan founded SCDA. First commission, converting a shophouse in Cairnhill into a family home.

Firm makes its name designing luxury condominiums and hospitality projects incorporating landscape and interior design.

2013 SCDA becomes the world's largest developer, Soori High Line in New York City.

1995 年 Soo K Chan 创立了 SCDA 建筑设计事务所。第一单业务是将 Cairnhill 的一家店屋改造成住宅。

事务所以豪华公寓和酒店设计而闻名，并擅长融合景观设计和室内设计。

2013 年 宣布开发设计纽约市豪华公寓楼 Soori High Line。

2015 年 SCDA 在三十多个城市拥有项目。